Fall Meeting at Ashland University October 21-22, 2005

The Fall Meeting of the Ohio Section of the MAA will be held at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, on October 21-22, 2005. The meeting will start at noon on Friday, with the first invited address at 1:30, and will conclude at 12:40 pm on Saturday. Five major addresses will be given by invited speakers **Ronald Graham** of the University of California, San Diego, **Thomas Hern** of Bowling Green State University, **Leo Schneider** of John Carroll University, and **Carol Schumacher** of Kenyon College. Other meeting participants are encouraged to submit talks for the contributed paper sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Publishers' exhibits, a Friday evening banquet, and an after-dinner talk are also being planned.

Hawkins-Conard Student Center

Meeting Registration

Online registration is preferred. Visit the Section web site at **www.maa.org/Ohio** for one-stop registration, banquet reservation and abstract submission. The deadline for meeting pre-registration and banquet reservations is **October 14**. Abstracts for contributed papers must be submitted by **October 7**.

On-site meeting registration is always available, but last-minute banquet tickets cannot be guaranteed. Early registration helps those making meeting arrangements and is always appreciated. On-site registration will take place in the Hawkins-Conard Student Center on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Ohio Project NExT Fall Workshop

Ohio Project NExT is a program to help young faculty members network with colleagues, to share ideas and experiences that promote professional growth, and to encourage newer faculty to become involved in the Ohio Section.

On Thursday evening, **October 20**, preceding the Ohio Section Fall Meeting, members of Ohio Project NExT will gather for a banquet – an opportunity to meet new and old friends. After the banquet, the NExTers will spend an hour or so discussing a topic that will be announced in advance. Then, on Friday morning, **October 21**, our NExT Workshop will be held. The workshop will feature two major speakers, along with two or three contributed talks by NExT members. Prior

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Section Governor's Report

One more year to go on my term as Section Governor. This is my penultimate report. (That's a fancy word I learned, which means next to last.)

It also means that the gears are in motion to select a replacement who will take office in July, 2006. The Section Bylaws provide for the Section's officers to be the nominating committee. At least two candidates must be put forward. The national MAA conducts the election, since it is really a national office. You will probably get a ballot next winter.

This is a good time to remind you that the bylaws are online for your inspection. Whenever I get questions about Section governance, the answer is almost always provided in these bylaws. I always recommend that new officers consult them, and even for the incoming President to print off a copy. They should also consult the Section Officers' Handbook, which is on www.maa.org, and the appendices of the Section history, also online.

There were the usual reports and presentations at the Board of Governors' Meeting and the Section Officers' Meeting at MathFest. Some were very informative, and some unnecessarily much too long. We approved some appointments, award recipients, etc.

For me the highlights were the reports of the treasurer and the investment, budget, and audit committees. The reason is that I continue to be assured that we are in good shape financially, and that we are also in good hands. Treasurer John Kenelly and other committee members Dan Maki and Jim Daniel are doing a magnificent job. The audit showed that the numbers are right, and, more importantly, for the first time there were no negative findings, not even minor warnings. In their words: we have gotten to the place we want to be.

The budget is on track for this year; no midyear corrections need to be made.

I have mentioned before that the Board of Governors' meeting is well controlled by the Executive Committee. Much business is very routine, essentially agreeing to the Executive Committee recommendations. But towards the end of the day the Board sometimes rebels, or at least gets very irritated, and officers' tempers can get short as well.

This time there was a proposal for Board approval, and it was getting close to 5 pm. The proposal's reasons were really not clear, the discussion seemed to miss the point, and there were genuine questions that were not really being addressed. Finally the question was called for a voice vote, and the nays were literally yelled out. A ballot showed that the proposal was soundly defeated, probably not on the merits, and there was no time left to repair the damage. I think the Board was just not in the mood to be bullied. I don't think the Board said a final no, but someone does need to do their homework to salvage something.

So the day came to an abrupt end. Democracy really does rule.

In this column in the past, one of the items mentioned several times has been the upcoming centennial of the MAA in 2015, and the possibility of a meeting in Columbus, the site of the founding of the MAA. Well, that is now off the table. The

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David Singer wins Ohio Section Teaching Award

The 2005 Ohio Section *Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics* has been awarded to Dr. David Singer of the Mathematics Department of Case Western Reserve University. The award was presented to David by Section President Mark Smith on March 31, 2005, at the Spring Section Meeting, with over two hundred in attendance.

A professor since 1975, Dr. Singer has been ranked each of the past three years as "outstanding" by CWRU students. In 2002, he received the Undergraduate Student Government Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award.

Mentoring is a common theme to David's teaching, and he has been nominated for an Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring. He is known for working individually with students, for working on individual study projects, and as an advisor both for Master's and PhD students—even outside of the Mathematics department.

Professor Singer is a frequent contributor to the MAA's *American*

Mathematical Monthly, usually on questions in geometry. He is also author of a book on geometry titled *Geometry, Plane and Fancy*.

In the mid-1990's, Dr. Singer testified before Congress on a prototype post-doctoral program. Later, he participated as a Principal Investigator on this project with a multi-million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation and served as a mentor for the post-doctoral fellows.

One of his students wrote: "This is what Dr. Singer loves about his job; he loves helping people advance... He is one of the most unselfish instructors I have met!"

*Adapted by the editor
from the award citation
written by Dale Mugler*

President's Message

Greetings from John Carroll University! I hope everyone has had a productive beginning to the fall term and that all are looking forward with anticipation to the Fall Meeting.

As your presiding officer I attended MathFest in Albuquerque in early August, and I will try to fill you in on what I learned. Most importantly, we will be electing a new Section Governor this year. A committee consisting of the Officers of the Section will be presenting two candidates for Governor. Balloting will take place in the spring. Be sure to cast your vote when the time comes.

As you know, the Section awards a Teaching Award each spring, and the recipient is then nominated for a national award. This year one of our previous award winners, Aparna Higgins, was chosen as a national award winner. First, many congratulations to Aparna and second, don't forget to nominate deserving faculty for this year's award. (See the call for nominations below.) The nomination does take some effort, so an early approach would be best.

The Nominating Committee soon will be contacting some of you to serve as Section officers. Please be generous with your time. The Ohio Section is one of the most successful sections of the MAA, and this success is due to the past generous service of many people. So if asked, please join them.

One thing mentioned at the Officers' Meeting at MathFest that has also been on my mind was the idea of establishing an endowment for the Section. I have this idea that there are certain activities of the Section that would benefit from a permanent source of funds. Project NExT comes to mind, as does my idea that the Section would sponsor some sort of statewide scholarship for graduating high school students in the state. I envision an endowment that could provide a continuing award of one or more substantial scholarships that we could advertise to all high schools and from which we could reap some publicity when we recognize the winners. I know that first of all, this would entail a large sum of money and second, there would be some work necessary to the selection of winners. I have no doubt that the Section would accomplish the second task, if the first were accomplished.

It was suggested at the national meeting that often members have inquired about possible bequests to sections in their wills. Perhaps, this would be a way to begin to accumulate some of the funds required for a scholarship endowment. The national office was adamant, however, about being sure that anyone considering such a bequest should contact the national office for guidance. It seems that as a non-profit organization, it is important that one central source handle all funds that are not "petty cash," which is what individual sections' funds are considered. The national office would be the financial agent for any endowment that would accumulate.

I think that a permanent Project NExT or/and an endowed scholarship would be a great legacy that a section could provide for its region. If anyone else thinks that it would be worthwhile pursuing this idea, let me know.

Finally, I want to remind all of us to engage the new faculty in our departments (and some of the old, if necessary) and inform them about our Section meetings and our Project NExT. The Executive Committee has voted to waive the registration fee for those attending their first Ohio Section meeting. Simply indicate appropriately when registering online. Also, in addition to all the food, for the first year Project NExT will provide up to $75 each meeting toward lodging for any new Fellows. It seems, then, that your colleagues would have nothing to lose, so bring them to the meetings.

Really finally, I would like your department to consider hosting a section meeting. We need hosts beginning with the Fall 2007 Meeting. So, please contact me with your offers or suggestions.

See you at the Fall Meeting.

D. M. Olson

Call for Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations

Do you know a colleague, former teacher, or friend who is a great college mathematics teacher? This is your chance to nominate that person for special recognition, as nominations for the 2006 Ohio Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are very much desired.

It does take some organization to nominate an individual for the teaching award, but you'll find it quite straightforward. The person you nominate should be a member of the MAA Ohio Section, have at least five years of college-level teaching experience, and be widely recognized as being successful in teaching. The nomination would include a completed one-page nomination form, a fairly extensive description of why you feel the individual should receive the award, and the inclusion of some recommendations from former students and colleagues. See the Section web page for the required form and for further details: http://www.maa.org/Ohio.

The award will be announced at the banquet of the Section at the 2006 Spring Meeting, and the award committee will publicize the award. Official letters describing the award will be sent to administrators at the awardee's institution and to the campus newspaper, and the award will be announced in the Section newsletter. The awardee's file will be forwarded to the national MAA to be the Section's candidate for the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Pictures of each section's candidate are included in a national MAA newsletter, and three individuals are chosen for the national award, which includes a cash prize.

The deadline for nominations is January 1, 2006. Please address inquiries or nominations to the committee chair: Mark A. Smith, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056; smithma@muohio.edu

2005 - 2006 Ohio Section Leadership

ELECTED OFFICERS

President
Dwight Olson, John Carroll Univ.
216-397-4372; olson@jcu.edu

Past-President #1
Mark Smith, Miami University
513-529-5818; smithma@muohio.edu

Past-President #2
Dale Mugler, University of Akron
330-972-5365; dmugler@uakron.edu

President-Elect
Tom Dence, Ashland University
419-289-5262, tdence@ashland.edu

Section Governor   2006
Thomas Hern, Bowling Green
419-372-7450; hern@wcnet.org

Secretary-Treasurer   2006
J. William Friel, University of Dayton
937-229-3071; friel@udayton.edu

Secretary-Elect
Mark De Saint-Rat, Miami-Middletown
513-523-8896; desainme@muohio.edu

OTHER OFFICERS

Department Liaisons Coordinator,
On-line Registration and Webmaster
Thomas Price, University of Akron
330-972-8352; teprice@uakron.edu

Newsletter Editor
Carl Spitznagel, John Carroll U.   2008
216-397-4683; spitz@jcu.edu

Ohio Project NExT Coordinators
Dave Sobecki, Miami-Hamilton   2006
513-785-3226; sobeckdm@muohio.edu
Dale Mugler, University of Akron 2007
330-972-5365; dmugler@uakron.edu

OhioMATYC Liaison to OhioMAA
Jim Anderson, University of Toledo
419-530-3345
jim.anderson@utoledo.edu

OhioMAA Liaison to OhioMATYC
Robert Hovis, Ohio Northern University
419-772-2347; r-hovis@onu.edu

OCTM Liaison
David Wallach, University of Findlay
419-424-4624; wallach@findlay.edu

Archivist
John Zimmerman, Washington &
Jefferson College
724-250-3322
jzimmerman@washjeff.edu

COMMITTEES

* Denotes committee chair. Elected
Officers and Committee Chairs are
voting members of the Executive
Committee. Terms expire at the end of
the Spring meeting of the year listed.
See the Bylaws.

Program Committee
*Bill Higgins, Wittenberg   2006
937-327-7859
whiggins@wittenberg.edu
Barbara D'Ambrosia, John Carroll 2007
Don Hunt, Ohio Northern   2008

Committee on Curriculum (CONCUR)
*Michelle Wiggins, Ursuline Coll   2006
Roger Marty, Cleveland State   2006
Cathy Stoffer, Ashland Univ.   2007
Darren Parker, Univ. of Dayton   2008

Committee on Section Activities
(CONSACT)
* Lisa Rome, Mount Saint Joseph   2008
Juan Bes, Bowling Green   2007
Danny Otero, Xavier University   2007
Phil Blau, Shawnee State Univ.   2008

Committee on Student Members
(CONSTUM)
* Darren Wick, Ashland Univ.   2007
Judith Holdener, Kenyon College   2006
Darrell Horwath, John Carroll U   2006
Christopher Swanson, Ashland U   2007
Jeffrey Adler, University of Akron 2008
Mihai Caragiu, Ohio Northern   2008
Stephanie Edwards, Dayton   2008

Committee on Teacher Education and
Certification/Licensure (CONTEAL)
* Marsha Guntharp, Capital U   2008
David Kullman, Miami University 2006
Irina Chernikova, Univ. of Akron 2006
Maria Raiti, Ohio Northern   2006
Susan Thompson, Otterbein Coll   2008

OTHER COMMITTEES
* Denotes committee chair.

Nominating Committee
* Dale Mugler, Akron Univ.   2008
Harold Putt, Ohio Northern   2007
Tom Gantner, Univ. of Dayton   2006

Committee on Contests
David Stenson, John Carroll   AMC12

Teaching Award Committee
Mark Smith, Miami University   (PP)
J. William Friel, Univ. of Dayton   (ST)
Tom Dence, Ashland University   (Past
recipient)

Local arrangements for meetings

Fall 2005, Ashland University
         Cathy Stoffer,
         cstoffer@ashland.edu

Spring 2006, University of Akron
         Dale Mugler,
         dmugler@uakron.edu

Fall 2006, Muskingum College
         David Craft,
         craft@muskingum.edu

Governor's Report *(cont. from p. 2)*

centennial meeting will be in DC, the
headquarters of the MAA.

     Other winter meetings in the works
are Boston in 2012 and San Diego in 2013.
Seems that AMS has a policy of no
meeting north of the Mason-Dixon line in
January, but Boston may be an exception
as a trial. Several meeting sites have been
vetoed for future meetings. Las Vegas
apparently generated a ground swell of
opposition. I don't know why, but it has
been 30 years since the last meeting there,
and Las Vegas is a much different place
now.

     Cincinnati also is out, but the
reasoning is bogus. Yes it was cold the last
two times we met there, I remember -12
degrees walking to dinner on Sixth St.
People had to go home because of frozen
pipes, but those pipes were in Mississippi.
Cincinnati has good air connections. The
southern strategy has backfired as well.

Ohio Section Student Team Competition

The second annual Ohio Section Student Team Competition was held at Miami University on Friday, April 1, 2005, in conjunction with the spring Section meeting.

Nine teams, representing six institutions, participated: Ashland University, Marietta College, Marshall University, Miami University, The College of Wooster, and Youngstown State University. Cash prizes of $120, $60, and $45 were awarded to the top three teams.

Finishing in First Place was the Miami University "Team Y": John Grande, Charles Greathouse and Douglas Smith. The Second Place team was the Miami University "Team X," consisting of Colin Craft, Raj Doshi and Lindsey Sipes. The Youngstown State University "Male Team," Tom Cochran, Steve Dinda and Jeremy Hamilton, took Third Place in the competition.

First-place Team

Second-place team, flanked by coach Dan Pritikin and Section Past-President Mark Smith

Copies of past exams and more information can be found at the CONSTUM web site: www.ashland.edu/~dwick/constum.html. It's not too early to begin putting together your teams for the spring 2006 competition! Details will appear on the CONSTUM web site and in the Spring 2006 issue of Ohio Focus.

Many thanks go to the members of CONSTUM and others who helped with the 2005 competition: Jeff Adler, Mihai Caragiu, Stephanie Edwards, Judith Holdener, Dick Horwath and Chris Swanson.

Darren Wick, CONSTUM

CONSTUM Chair Darren Wick presents cash prize to third-place team

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Governor's Report (cont. from p. 4)

Remember the last DC meeting, it snowed an inch or two, and the town came to a halt. I heard stories of people taking from 4 pm to 11 pm to get from Dulles airport to the hotels. I felt kind of smug, since I took the train and had no problems.

Remember also Atlanta the time before last. An ice storm made it almost impossible for hotel workers to get in to work. As one person said, at least Boston knows how to deal with snow.

I have also mentioned before that I always seem to run into an old Bowling Green person at national meetings—well, one from the past, that is. While waiting in line for an email station at MathFest, the girl in front of me turned and said, "You probably do not remember me..." It turns out she graduated from BGSU in 1994, went on to a couple of graduate schools, and is now starting her teaching career at Centre College in Kentucky. She was at the meeting as part of Project NExT.

I also met another of our undergraduates who went on to get a Ph.D. at Virginia and now is returning to Ohio to teach

at John Carroll. It is not surprising that I met her; she is in Project NExT too. Be sure to welcome her at the Section meetings. In fact you might recognize her. She was at a couple of Section meetings as an undergraduate, and presented a talk as well. Her name is Pam Richardson. You can't miss her, she is six feet tall.

It is times like these that remind me why we are in this profession. We do not do this for the glory or the money. It is for our students and for the impact that they will make that often drives us. The thing that I first noticed when I went from being a TA at Ohio State to teaching at BGSU was that I actually saw students outside of the classroom; and even more, I saw them progress from freshmen to seniors and even on to doctorates in some cases. Pam was in my calc II class, and it is very satisfying to see the results of her career so far. You can't put a price on that. Of course lots of people contibuted far more than I.

To that end, I also remember Cliff Long dragging me to Ohio Section meetings. That was my introduction to the MAA. As everyone else who graduated

from a graduate program like Ohio State, I wasn't too aware of the MAA, and I should have been. I do remember there being an Ohio Section meeting in Columbus when I was there. I saw one of of my old professors: I.A. Barnett. But I wasn't invited or encouraged to attend.

I also remember dragging my fair share of graduate students and new faculty to meetings myself. I am happy to say that some have been officers in the Section.

So do your share. Bring someone to the next Section meeting. They may be a little shy about coming on their own. Sort of like my first day in Cub Scouts. Once my mother got me in the door, I was home.

Thomas Hern
Section Governor
hern@wcnet.org
August, 2005

PS: Have you seen the CBS TV show *Numb3rs* on Friday nights? Rings pretty true, mathematically. When was the last time you saw a show whose plot involved the Riemann hypothesis?

Campus Notes

Bowling Green State University: Three new faculty have been added at Bowling Green: Riewert Blok (Algebra - Group Theory), who earned his Ph.D. from Delft University of Technology; Elmas Irmak (Low dimensional Topology - Geometry), who earned her Ph.D. from Michigan State University; and Junfeng Shang (Statistics), who earned her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. We also added three new instructors: Hee Jung Kim, Christine Miller, and Kristina Rosendale. Barbara Moses is on leave this fall devoted to writing a textbook called "Algebra for Teachers," dealing with some of the difficulties in teaching algebra at the high school (or university) level. Sergey Shpectorov is on leave for 2005-06. He will visit the Tohoku University in Sendai on an eight-month Invitational Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

College of Wooster: The Mathematics and Computer Science Department welcomes Derek Newland as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Derek completed his Ph.D. in number theory at the University of California - San Diego this past summer. The College of Wooster will host the 2005 Midstates Conference for Undergraduate Research in Computer Science and Mathematics (MCURCSM2005). This is an MAA-RUMC sponsored activity and is supported by an NSF grant and the GLCA. More information is available at http://www.wooster.edu/cs/mcurcsm2005/ .

Kent State University – Geauga Campus: Dr. Om P. Ahuja has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences at Kent State University - Geauga Campus, effective with the academic year 2005-2006.

John Carroll University: The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science welcomes two new faculty members. Pamela Richardson is an Ohioan who received her bachelor's degree at Bowling Green and her Ph.D. at the University of Virginia. Also, joining us from Johns Hopkins is Jason Howald, who earned his bachelor's degree at Miami University and his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. Two visiting faculty members have left the Mathematics and Computer Science Department this year: Ashraf El-Houbi is now at Valparaiso University, and Dan Rusu is at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus.

Cleveland State University: Ching Lung Chang and Chung-Yi Suen will be on leave during the spring semester 2006. The department welcomes two new colleagues: Leah Gold, algebraist, Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2002, Vigre assistant professor at Texas A&M in 2002-2005; and Peter Bubenik, topologist, Ph.D. from University of Toronto in 2003 and post-doc fellow from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne in 2003-2005.

The University of Akron: The department regrets the loss of Jianping Zhu who effectively served as its Chair since 2001. Jainping accepted a position as Chair of the Department of Mathematics at The University of Texas at Arlington. We wish him well. Dr. Kevin Kreider, who received the 2005 Arts and Sciences Service Award, has been appointed Interim Chair of our department. Dr. Eric Wright also resigned his position to accept an appointment in Montana. He, too, will be missed. On the brighter side, Dr. Dmitry Golovaty was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Jeff Adler was granted a faculty improvement leave for the academic year 2005-06. Dr. Tom Price received the Arts and Science Teaching Award as well as the University Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award. Dr. Pat Wilber received the Chairs Early Career award. Mrs. Debbie Okonieski received the 2005 University of Akron Part-Time Outstanding Teaching Award. Two of our undergraduate students, Lori McDonnell and Mark Roberts, received the best presentation award at the First UA Undergraduate and Graduate Research Conference in October 2004. In addition, Ben Marko and Matthew Palmer were commended at the conference for their research accomplishments.

New Section Officers Elected

The following individuals were elected to offices at the spring Ohio Section MAA meeting held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio on April 1 and 2, 2005.

President-Elect: *Thomas P. Dence, Ashland University*
Thomas P. Dence earned a BS degree at Bowling Green State University, an MA degree at the University of Colorado, and in 1974 a Ph.D. in analysis at Colorado State University. Except for a post-doctoral year and a few visiting positions out of state, he has spent his teaching career in Ohio. Since 1984 he has been a member of the mathematics faculty at Ashland University where he served a nine-year term as department chair.

During his career, Tom has taught over three dozen distinct courses, ranging in level from developmental mathematics and various precalculus courses through advanced calculus and complex variables, and in breadth from the core areas of mathematics to courses such as mathematics for elementary teachers, history of mathematics, number theory, mathematical logic, operations research, numerical analysis, and several computer language and data structures courses.

Tom has been active over the years in the Ohio Section. He founded the MAA student chapter and organized several MAA short courses at Ashland. He has given numerous contributed paper talks at Section meetings and has published a number of papers accessible to students in the various MAA journals. When he was assigned to facilitate the mathematics Senior Seminar at Ashland for the spring 1998 semester, he challenged his students to give a talk at an Ohio Section meeting rather than just to their Mathematics Department. Twenty-two students met the challenge —and students from Ashland have given talks at every subsequent spring meeting.

Tom won the Ashland University Academic Mentor Award and the TKE Apollo Teaching Award in 2000. In 2003 he was honored with the Ohio Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Secretary-Elect: *Mark de Saint-Rat, Miami University-Middletown*
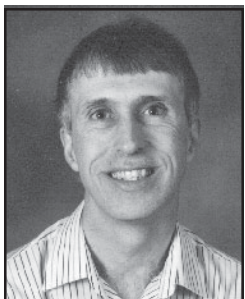Mark de Saint-Rat did his graduate work in mathematics at the

Coming up in Ohio

Ohio Section Summer Short Course
Baseball, Statistics, and the Role of Chance in the Game

Are you a baseball fan or someone interested in discovering ways to use baseball applications in your teaching of probability and statistics? Come be part of the fun at the Ohio Section 2006 summer short course: "Baseball, Statistics, and the Role of Chance in the Game," which is being planned for **June 7-9, 2006** at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. Learn how to use baseball for teaching statistical thinking and probabilistic modeling. Explore baseball data as you search for the ultimate batting statistic, look for clutch ability, model run production with Markov Chains, or compare great players of different eras, such as Babe Ruth and Barry Bonds. The instructor for this course will be **Dr. James Albert**, professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Bowling Green State University, author of *Teaching Statistics Using Baseball*, and coauthor of *Curve Ball: Baseball, Statistics, and the Role of Chance in the Game*.   For further information, visit http://www.muc.edu/~zwilliml/shortcourse/.

Lisa Rome, CONSACT

Undergraduate Mathematics Day at University of Dayton

Undergraduate Mathematics Day at the University of Dayton will be held on **Saturday, November 5, 2005**. We invite contributed talks from undergraduates celebrating undergraduate mathematics in all forms—research, learning, teaching, history. Talks presented by high school students, graduate students and faculty are also welcome. All presenters at the conference are invited to submit the paper to our refereed, on-line proceedings of the conference. There will be invited presentations by Patrick Flinn (NSA) and Kristen Lampe (Carroll College). There will be no registration fee, and lunch and refreshments will be provided at no cost to the participants. We can also offer limited support for student housing. Further details can be found at http://academic.udayton.edu/MathEvents/Fall05/

Wiebke Diestelkamp

Pi Mu Epsilon Student Conference at Youngstown State University

The Ohio Xi Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon at Youngstown State University will host its eighth annual regional Student Paper Meeting on **Saturday, February 18, 2006**. In 2005, there were 20 different colleges and universities represented by nearly 125 students and 35 faculty. All Pi Mu Epsilon Chapters, as well as schools in the region that have interest in undergraduate student research, are invited. The meeting gives undergraduate students the opportunity to present results of their projects and research, and to listen to topics that are of interest to other undergraduate students in the region. The talks are for 15 minutes each with five minutes between talks. Limited travel funding is available. For more information, contact Angela Spalsbury (angie@math.ysu.edu) or visit http://www.math.ysu.edu/pme/ .

Angela Spalsbury

Spring 2006 Section Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Spring 2006 Ohio Section meeting on **March 31-April 1, 2006** at the **University of Akron**. We have a program that you and your students should not miss, including talks by **Georgia Benkhart**, **David Finn** and **Dwight Olson**. For a look at the preliminary spring program, see http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/mathcomp/MAA/Spring/program.htm.

Bill Higgins

to last Fall's Section meeting, the NExT workshop at John Carroll University featured James Sellers (University of Pennsylvania), Stephanie Edwards (University of Dayton), Darren Parker (University of Dayton), and Thomas Hern and David Meel (Bowling Green State University).

Ohio Project NExT is open to anyone who is in his/her first five years of teaching in the Ohio Section. If you're in this group, please consider joining us this fall for our NExT Banquet and Workshop, as well as the Ohio Section Meeting. First-time Project NExT participants in their first two years of teaching in Ohio are eligible to receive a lodging assistance grant from the Ohio Section of up to $75. Contact Dale Mugler at dmugler@ uakron.edu for membership information and details.

Ohio Project NExT is coordinated by Dave Sobecki (Miami University), Wiebke Diestelkamp (University of Dayton), Christopher Swanson (Ashland University), and Dale Mugler (University of Akron).

Dale Mugler

University of Cincinnati. Since 1997 he has been a member of the mathematics faculty at the Middletown Campus of Miami University. Mark has served the Ohio Section as a member and chair of CONCUR and as local arrangements coordinator for the 2005 spring meeting at Miami University.

Program Committee Member:
Donald Hunt, Ohio Northern University

Donald Hunt earned a Ph.D. in complex analysis at The Ohio State University under the direction of Frank Carroll. Since 1999 he has been a member of the mathematics faculty at Ohio Northern University. Don has served the Ohio Section as a member and chair of CONSACT and as local arrangements coordinator for the summer short course in Knot Theory held at Ohio Northern in 2004.

Harold Putt
Nominating Committee

Fall Meeting Program

Registration and invited addresses will take place in the Hawkins-Conard Student Center.

Friday, October 21

12:00—4:30	Registration, book exhibits	*Hawkins-Conard*
12:15—1:15	Committee Meetings:	*Patterson Center:*
	CONCUR	*Room 309*
	CONSACT	*Room 314*
	CONSTUM	*Room 320*
	CONTEAL	*Room 323*
1:30—1:45	Welcome & announcements	
1:45—2:45	**Invited Address:**	
	"Packing Discs in the Plane"	
	Ronald L. Graham, University of	
	California, San Diego	
2:45—3:15	Break & refreshments	
3:15—4:15	**Invited Address:**	
	"I Thought I was Lecturing"	
	Thomas Hern, Bowling Green	
	State University	
4:15—5:50	**Contributed Paper Sessions**	*Dauch Hall*
4:15—5:50	Executive Committee meeting	*Dauch 116*
6:00—6:30	Social time	
6:30—7:45	**Banquet**	*Myers*
7:45—8:30	**After-Dinner Address:**	*Convocation*
	"A Funny Thing Happened on the	*Center*
	Way to the Meeting"	
	Leo Schneider, John Carroll Univ.	

Saturday, October 22

8:00—10:30	Registration, book exhibits	*Hawkins-Conard*
8:00—8:50	Coffee, pastries, juice	
8:05—8:45	Executive Committee meeting	
	continuation (if necessary)	
8:05—8:45	Meeting of department	*Hawkins-Conard*
	liaisons and chairs	*Conference Rm A*
8:50—9:00	Announcements	
9:00—10:00	**Invited Address:**	
	"Zeroing in on the Implicit	
	Function Theorem"	
	Carol Schumacher,	
	Kenyon College	
10:00—10:30	Break & refreshments	
10:30—11:30	**Contributed Paper Sessions**	
11:40—12:40	**Invited Address:**	
	"Undergraduate Research:	
	Planting the Seed and	
	Watching it Grow"	
	Leo Schneider,	
	John Carroll University	
12:40	Closing remarks	

Check the Section web page for updates, online registration, and contributed papers: http://www.maa.org/Ohio.

Ronald L. Graham
"Packing Discs in the Plane"

A classical problem in geometry deals with finding the densest packings of equal discs in the Euclidean plane. While the solution to this problem has been known for more than a hundred years (hexagonal is best), there are many variations of this problem which are completely unsolved. In this talk, I will describe some of what is currently known, and what is still unknown.

Ron Graham entered university at age 15, intending to pursue a career in science. After three years at Chicago, he decided to transfer to the University of California at Berkeley and to major in electrical engineering. Eventually—after a four-year gap in which he joined the Air Force and was assigned to a post in Alaska—Ron finished his undergraduate education and received a B.S. degree in physics from the University of Alaska in 1958. Ron subsequently was awarded a Master's and a Ph.D. degree in mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1961 and 1962, respectively. During his graduate years, Ron was both an NSF Fellow and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. Interestingly, Ron worked his way through graduate school by performing in a circus with a trampoline troupe.

Ron Graham currently holds the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Endowed Chair in Computer and Information Science in UCSD's Jacobs School of Engineering, and is Chief Scientist of the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology. He joined the UCSD faculty in 1999, after a 37-year career with AT&T, ultimately as Chief Scientist at AT&T Labs. Currently he is the Treasurer of the National Academy of Sciences and is a Past-President of both the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America.

Over his career, Ron has made significant contributions to virtually every area of pure and applied mathematics. Ron is probably most well known for his work in Ramsey Theory, a branch of mathematics that has to do with finding unavoidable order in apparently random mathematical situations. For his work in Ramsey Theory, Ron was a co-recipient of the prestigious Polya Prize in Mathematics awarded by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Ron's many contributions have been recognized by his election to the National Academy of Sciences and by his Fellowships in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Ron received the Carl Allendorfer Award and the Lester Ford Award of the MAA and the Euler Medal of the Institute of Combinatorics. He has also received five honorary doctoral degrees. Most recently, Ron was named a Fellow of the ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery. He also sits on the editorial boards of more than 40 mathematics journals, and travels and lectures extensively.

Thomas Hern
"I Thought I was Lecturing"

What do you say about teaching to such an august group as the Ohio Section? It is almost presumptuous to think I have much to say to an already experienced group. I asked around, and I think I can say something of interest.

One of the things that I have a beef about is the imprecise way certain terms are used. One such term is "lecture." One person tells me that lecturing is the worst way to teach. I have a story about that. Other terms are "assessment," "statistics," and "reform _____" (fill in your favorite). So your homework is: tell me what you think "lecture" means. (Once a teacher, always ...)

I will also give a few of my tricks or hints that I have come up with over the years. You are free to use or reject any of them. But I would like to pass them on. That is my last point. How do we pass on the experience gained to the future generations? How do we really teach about teaching? I am convinced that teaching is a cultural activity, so the mechanisms need to reflect that reality.

Tom Hern's degrees are an A.B. from the University of Cincinnati, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, all in mathematics. His dissertation was on probability under the direction of Jesse Shapiro. Tom has been at BGSU since graduate school, with the exception of two years in the CS department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tom wrote the following: "I grew up in Cincinnati and attended Withrow High School, where my first influence was Eleanor Graham, my AP math teacher for three years. I think I teach like her.

"I have a checkered genealogy: ethnically English, Scot, Swiss, and German. You can see why I am so stubborn and close with a buck. Parts of my mother's family have been in Cincinnati for about 175 years and were academics. My great-great grandfather taught at old Woodward (then downtown) in the 19th century, and in fact taught physics and chemistry to E.H. Moore. My great grandparents were classmates of Moore at Woodward.

"On the other hand, my father was the first in his family to graduate from high school, and I was the second. I had to fight to go to college, and paid my own way. His grandfather, a Civil War veteran, could not sign his name. The Herns seem particularly good at business and seeing the big picture.

"My hobbies or non-mathematical interests are photography (film), travel, genealogy, finance, local and mathematical history, steam engines (not just rail), in fact anything mechanical. I am always taking things apart."

Tom has served the Ohio Section in numerous offices, such as President, Program Committee, webmaster and newsletter editor. He is currently in the last year of his term as Section Governor. Tom received the MAA's Meritorious Service Award, and the Section teaching award. It is because of the last award that he has been asked to give this talk.

Carol Schumacher
"Zeroing in on the Implicit Function Theorem"

In mathematics, it often happens that baroque, highly technical results disguise beautiful underlying principles. This talk traces the path from the elegant contraction mapping principle to the rather inscrutable implicit function theorem—a path that passes through Newton's method for finding roots, linear algebra and linear approximation, and the geometry of multidimensional surfaces.

Carol Schumacher is Professor of Mathematics at Kenyon College in Gambier, OH. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Hendrix College in 1982 and a Ph.D. in Functional Analysis from the University of Texas at Austin in 1989. She joined the Kenyon faculty in the fall of 1988 and is currently serving a sentence as departmental chair. Carol is the author of the textbook *Chapter Zero—Fundamental Notions of Abstract Mathematics*, now in its second edition. She is now working on a second book: *Closer and Closer—An Introduction to Real Analysis*. Last spring, she received Kenyon's Trustee Award for outstanding teaching by a senior faculty member.

Leo J. Schneider
"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Meeting"

What is the funniest mathematics-related joke you heard at an MAA talk? What is your most vivid memory from the first MAA Section meeting you attended, and/or the first national MAA meeting you attended? What is the most compassionate favor you have received at one of these meetings? What was your most panic-stricken moment at one of these meetings? Which talk and its subject that you have heard at a meeting in years gone by would be the most out of place at today's meeting? And where did you get those red corduroy pants?

Leo J. Schneider
"Undergraduate Research: Planting the Seed and Watching it Grow"

Leading and watching students work on problems and seeing their successes is one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching. This is especially true when the students have begun with especially easy arithmetic problems and generalized them beyond anything one might have expected.

The *Pi Mu Epsilon Journal* has Andree Awards for the best student-written articles published each year. Three students who did work on problems suggested by the speaker have won such awards during the past thirty-plus years. We will explore the steps, triumphs, and false starts that eventually led to the accomplishments of two of these students.

Leo Schneider is a Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at John Carroll University, where he has taught since 1963. Leo received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mathematics from Xavier University and his Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. The two years after receiving his M.S., he spent in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps at the Springfield Armory in Massachusetts, helping those in the military industrial complex manufacture rifle and machine gun parts more efficiently with the use of computer controlled machine tools.

Directions to Ashland University

From the north or south on I-71: From Interstate 71, take exit #186 or U.S. Route 250, Ashland. Off the exit ramp, turn left on Route 250 heading west. Do not take the Route 250 bypass; continue west on Main Street into Ashland. As you pass the downtown business district and Home Hardware on your left, merge into the left lane and turn left on Claremont Avenue at the next intersection. Continue south on Claremont Avenue to the Hawkins-Conard Student Center.

From the east on U.S. Route 30 or U.S. Route 250: When U.S. Routes 30 and 250 split on the west side of Wooster, take U.S. Route 250 west toward Ashland. Do not take the Route 250 bypass; continue west on Main Street into Ashland. As you pass the downtown business district and Home Hardware on your left, merge into the left lane and turn left on Claremont Avenue at the next intersection. Continue south on Claremont Avenue to the Hawkins-Conard Student Center.

From the west on the Ohio Turnpike or south on U.S. Route 250: From the Turnpike, exit at gate 7, U.S. Route 250 and travel south on Route 250 about 37 miles to Ashland. Do not take the route 250 Bypass, continue straight into Ashland. This will become Cottage Street. As you approach the third traffic light, which is Main Street, be sure to stay in the center lane to go down the hill and straight through the intersection. When you cross Main Street, you will now be on Claremont Avenue. Continue south on Claremont Avenue to the Hawkins-Conard Student Center.

From the north on State Route 58: Take State Route 58 south toward Ashland. Do not take the Routes 250 and 58 bypass, continue straight into Ashland on Orange Street. Bear left onto Union Street and continue south to the intersection of Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street. Continue through the downtown business district. At the second traffic light turn left on Claremont Avenue. Continue south on Claremont Avenue to the Hawkins-Conard Student Center.

Parking: Meeting participants may park in any campus parking lot. It would be helpful if drivers would leave a sign on their dashboard stating that they are attending the MAA meeting. (You can download a sign from the Section web site.) The most convenient parking areas are **Lot E** (across Claremont Avenue from Hawkins-Conard) and **Lot D** (next to Dauch).

Fall Meeting (cont. from p. 1)

You may also register by mail, by sending the following information: name, affiliation, address, phone, e-mail, type of position, and banquet information. Include your check payable to Ohio Section MAA for applicable fees: [\$25 ordinary registration (\$10 retired or part-time, no fee for students or first-time attendees), \$20 banquet] to Cathy Stoffer, Dept. of Mathematics, Ashland University, Ashland OH 44805.
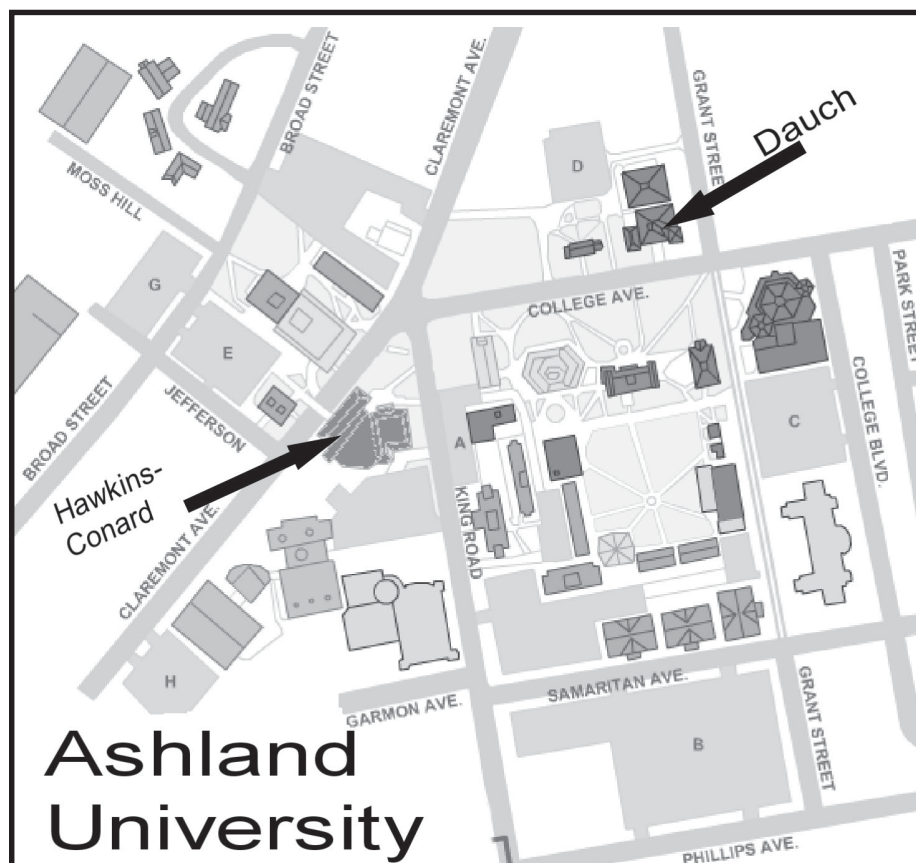
Publishers' Exhibits

Several publishers will exhibit their wares in the Hawkins-Conard Student Center Conference Rooms on Friday and Saturday. Please encourage any book reps you meet to contact Cathy Stoffer at cstoffer@ashland.edu or 419-289-5947, to take advantage of this opportunity to display their wares for a gathering of mathematics faculty from around Ohio. There will also be MAA books on display with an opportunity to buy books at a discount. Not only would you save money, but the Section would earn some too!

Call for Contributed Papers

Fifteen-minute presentations on any topic of general interest in mathematics or related areas are encouraged for the Contributed Paper Sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the Ohio Section Fall Meeting. Reports on projects, research announcements, or anything you believe would be of interest to those in attendance are welcome.

The presentation rooms will include a whiteboard and a system consisting of a networked computer (PC compatible) with a SMART Sympodium, CD drive, and Microsoft Office suite, including PowerPoint; ceiling-mounted projector; document camera with zooming capability (for opaque material or transparencies); wireless internet connection; laptop connection and VHS/DVD player. The com-

Ashland University

puters will handle a flash drive, but are not equipped with floppy drives. Speakers with specific questions about technology needed for contributed talks should contact Darren Wick, dwick@ashland.edu.

Contributors should send a title and a brief abstract by **October 7, 2005**. Although online submission with your meeting registration is preferred, you may also submit your title and abstract by mail or email to the chair of the Program Committee: Bill Higgins, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Wittenberg University, Ward Street at North Wittenberg Avenue, P.O. Box 720, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0720, whiggins @wittenberg.edu. Please use only plain text in your title and abstract as the abstract submittal system cannot process TeX or other graphics code.

Banquet

The Friday evening buffet banquet will be held in the Faculty Room of the John C. Myers Convocation Center. The buffet will include Fruit Bowl, Garden Salad with Assorted Salad Dressings, Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast or Vegetarian Lasagna, Parslied Red Skin Potatoes, Wild Rice with Basil & Shallots, Green Beans Almandine, Assorted Dinner Rolls, Assorted Fancy Cakes, Coffee and Tea. The cost of the banquet is $20, and the reservation deadline is **October 14**.

In the Ohio Section Leo has served many roles, including President and Section Governor. For many years, he served as the Ohio Examination Coordinator for the MAA's high school mathematics contest. For the national MAA, Leo spent 15 years on its Committee on the American Mathematics Competitions, chairing the committee and its examination-writing component for 6 of those years. Leo is now in his third three-year term on the national Council of Pi Mu Epsilon, and is in his second term as its Secretary-Treasurer.

Leo was the recipient of the Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics from the Ohio Section in 2004.

Where to Stay

All three hotels are located approximately 3 miles from campus, at I-71 and US 250.

Amerihost Inn
741 U.S. 250 East, Ashland, Ohio 44805
419-281-8090
$59 for double or single king
Cutoff for reservations is 10/7. Please mention Ashland Math Group when making reservations. Indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, continental breakfast, exercise facilities, free high speed internet
http://www.stayashland.com/

Days Inn
1423 Ashland Co. Rd. 1575
Ashland, Ohio 44805
419-289-0101
$45.99 for double, $39.99 for single
Cutoff for reservations is 10/7. Please mention Ashland Mathematics when making reservations. Outdoor pool, continental breakfast.

Super 8 Motel
736 U.S. 250 East, Ashland, Ohio 44805
419-281-0567
$54.88 for double or single room
Cutoff for reservations is 10/7. Please mention Ashland Mathematics when making reservations. Outdoor pool, free continental breakfast, free wireless internet.

AREA BED & BREAKFASTS

Jenny Wade Bed and Breakfast
(1 mile from campus)
302 Center Street, Ashland, OH 44805
419-207-0177

Grandpa's Cheesebarn (3 miles from campus, I-71 and US 250)
668 U.S. 250 East, Ashland, OH 44805
419-281-3202 or 800-745-7091
$135-$155
Free gift basket, $12 gift certificate for breakfast
http://www.grandpascheesebarn.com/

Winfield Bed and Breakfast (3 miles from campus)
1568 State Rt. 60, Ashland, OH 44805
419-281-5587 or 800-269-7166
$85-$150
http://www.bbonline.com/oh/winfield/index.html

About Ashland

Founded in 1878, Ashland University is a private, comprehensive institution committed to challenging and supporting students intellectually, spiritually, socially, culturally and physically.

Located midway between Cleveland and Columbus off Interstate 71, Ashland University is home to 2,150 full-time undergraduate students. Eighty-five percent of these students are from Ohio, while students also come from 27 other states and 31 countries. The University's total enrollment is 6,900 students. The University's beautiful 120-plus acre campus contains 44 modern buildings including the 55,000-square-foot Hawkins-Conard Student Center, a new Dauch College of Business and Economics Building, an Instructional Technology Center, a nine-story library, a performing arts theatre and art gallery.

Ashland University takes great pride in its philosophy of "Accent on the Individual" and offers a learning environment in which students can expect personal attention from professors and staff who genuinely care about them and their development.

The University offers approximately 70 majors including toxicology/environmental science, hotel and restaurant management and radio/TV, which are unusual for an institution this size. In addition, it offers most traditional liberal arts majors as well as a wide range of majors in business and education.

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is located at the center of campus in the Patterson Technology Center with the main office in 300 PTC. The Department serves approximately 75 mathematics, computer science, and mathematics education majors with degree programs leading to Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Science in Education. The mathematics and computer science needs of the university student body are met through 75 courses enrolling at least 1200 students each year. Hands-on learning is encouraged in modern, technology-equipped classrooms and computer labs.

The Department has nine full-time faculty: six in mathematics and three in computer science. All faculty hold the doctoral degree in their discipline and are active scholars in addition to being dedicated to excellence in teaching.

Calendar

Ohio Section

Spring Section Meeting, March 31-April 1, 2006, University of Akron, Akron, OH

Fall Section Meeting, October 27-28, 2006, Muskingum College, New Concord, OH

Ohio Section Short Course, June 7-9, 2006, Mount Union College, Alliance, OH

National MAA-AMS

Annual Joint Meetings, January 12-15, 2006, San Antonio, TX

MathFest, August 10-12, 2006, Knoxville, TN

Annual Joint Meetings, January 4-7, 2007, New Orleans, LA

MathFest, August 3-5, 2007, San Jose, CA

Annual Joint Meetings, January 6-9, 2008, San Diego, CA

MathFest, July 31-August 2, 2008, Madison, WI

Annual Joint Meetings, January 7-10, 2009, Washington, DC

Annual Joint Meetings, January 6-9, 2010, San Francisco, CA

Annual Joint Meetings, January 5-8, 2011, New Orleans, LA

Annual Joint Meetings, January 4-7, 2012, Boston, MA

Other

OCTM Conference, October 6-8, 2005, Dayton Convention Center

AMATYC Annual Conference, November 10-13, 2005, San Diego, CA

Indiana Section, November 5, 2005, Depauw University, Greencastle, IN

International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics, March 16-19, Orlando, FL

Kentucky Section, March 31-April 1, 2006, Centre College, Danville, KY

Indiana Section, March 17-18, 2006, Taylor University, Upland, IN

Allegheny Mountain Section, April 7-8, 2006, Juniata College, Huntington, PA

NCTM Annual Meeting, April 26-29, 2006, St. Louis, MO

Michigan Section, May 5-6, 2006, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

State Science Day, May 6, 2006, Ohio State University

AMATYC Annual Conference, November 2-5, 2006, Cincinnati, OH

Complimentary copies of this newsletter are being distributed to people who would be interested in Ohio Section activities. By joining the MAA, you will get your own copy of the newsletter. If you are not an MAA member, visit the MAA's web page: http://www.maa.org/mbsvcs/individual.html. MAA Departmental Liaisons also have membership information.

John Carroll
UNIVERSITY
THE *Jesuit University* IN Cleveland

Department of Mathematics & Computer Science
John Carroll University
University Heights, OH 44118-4581

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